years of the 8th plan period. The opinion of international experts are taken as and when required.

Indo-Oman Gas Pipeline

3593. SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a policy decision to lay the pipeline for natural gas between India and Oman; if so, whether the feasibility of the project was considered;

(b) whether Government had discussed the matter with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Oman during the last week of March, if so, the details and the outcome thereto; and

(c) what steps Government are considering to take on the feasibility of this ambitious project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) to (c) In terms of the Agreement on Principal Terms signed with Oman in 1994, the Oman Oil Company took up the feasibility study for the Oman India Gas Pipeline. The feasibility study is yet to be completed. A Joint working Group has been formed between GAIL and Oman Oil Company to expedite the feasibility study and to identify possible sources of finance for the project.

Gas Reserve along Orissa Coast

3594. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether gas reserves have been detected along Orissa Coast;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the investment plans for extracting gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

East Coast Refinery Plan

3595. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the East Coast Refinery Plan has been approved;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating its site and by when the work of the project would start; and

(c) by when it would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERTOLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Indian Oil Corporation has in Principle approval to set up a 6 MMTPA joint venture refinery in the East Coast. IOC has submitted a Detailed Feasibility Report which includes the subject of site selection and the same is under process of investment approvals. The implementation of the project is expected to take approximately 46 months for mechanical completion from the date of Government approval.

Setting up of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission

3596. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINIISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstared Question 1400 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th March, 1997 and state:

(a) what is the present stage of the proposal to create Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC);

(b) how CERC would be different from the existing CEA in terms of func tions, responsibilities and authorities.

(c) whether it would be an autonomous body, operating with its Board, without interference by the Ministry;

(d) the number of the technical expert staff employed in the CEA, indicating grade and experience-wise numbers: and

(c) whether Government have any plans to re-deploy them without adversely affecting their service conditions and prospects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHAR1): (a) to (e) The proposals in this regard are still under consideration of Government.

Agreement between Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and the Ministry of Power

3597. SHRI RAM DAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Agreement was signed between the Ministry of Power and Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan on 10th May, 1984 for making reference to the Supreme Court in respect of the claims of Rajasthan for power generated in Thcin, Anandpur Sahib, Hukrian, UBDC stage II and Shahpur Kandi Hydro Electric Projects;

(b) whether inspite of repeated reminders from the Rajasthan Government the opinion of Supreme Court has not been sought till date; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefeor and the steps taken so far to mitigate the hardships of Rajasthan due to unallocated quota of centre's power reserve; when Punjab has already started utilising this power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (c) An agreement was reached among Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and the Central Government on 10.5.1984 for making a rcicrencc to the Supreme Court on the question of entitlement of Haryana and Rajasthan to a share in the power generated in the Anandpur Sahib Hydel Project. Mukcrian Hydel Project. Thein Dam Project, Upper Bari Doab Canal (UBDC) Stagc-II and Shahpur Kandi Hydel Scheme; and, in the case of there being such an entitlement, to determine the share of each state.

This has been a subject matter of discussion in various inter-state meetings held by the Ministry of Water Resources. However, no consensus could be reached. Northern Zonal Council has now been approached to persuade the State concerned to arrive at an amicable settlement.

Keeping in view the overall power supply position in the Northern region of the country, 30% of power from the "unallocated quota" of Central Power Stations kept at the disposal of the Central Government, has been allocated to Rajasthan with effect from 1.5.1997.

Requirement and Generation of Power in Uttar Pradesh

3598. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the place of Uttar Pradesh taking unit of population as criteria to determine power dificit in States;

(b) what is the power requirement of the State in the next Five Year Plan period and how much power would be generated in the same period;

(c) whether the U.P. Government has submitted any projects for clearance and if so, since when they are pending and by when they would be cleared; and

(d) whether a number of power pro jects in the state are lying incomplete because of financial shortage; if so, what remedial measures are being taken to remove this crisis?